

Amendments to the Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A freestanding candle, in an operable position having a wick
2 supported by a fuel body and extending upwardly from a top surface of the fuel body, the
3 candle comprising:

4 (a) a flame-resistant sheet joined to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity
5 to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch
6 from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and

7 (b) an upright wick support attached to the sheet and holding the lower end of the
8 wick, the attached support forming a liquid fuel flow barrier separating the lower end
9 of the wick from the fuel body

10 wherein the candle is not contained within a container whereby the sheet prevents the leakage
11 of melted candle wax through the bottom of the candle onto a candle support surface.

1 2. (cancelled)

1 3. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is sealingly
2 bonded to the sheet.

1 4. (original) The candle of claim 3, wherein the sheet has an adhesive backing that bonds to
2 the wick support and the bottom surface of the fuel body.

1 5. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the flow barrier is a sealant disposed
2 at least across an opening to a bore extending through the wick support.

1 6. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is formed *in situ* unitarily with
2 the wick.

1 7. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent
2 disposed on a surface of the lower end of the wick.

1 8. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent
2 impregnating the lower end of the wick.

1 9. (original) The candle of claim 7 or 8, wherein the wick support is bonded to the sheet by
2 the flame-resistant agent.

1 10. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is a block of solid, flame-
2 resistant material.

1 11. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support extends above the sheet an
2 amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire.

1 12. (original) The candle of claim 11, wherein the amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire
2 is at least about one-half inch.

1 13. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet extends substantially to an outer
2 peripheral surface of the fuel body.

1 14. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a peripheral rim having a
2 thickness greater than the sheet.

1 15. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a flange at an outer boundary.

1 16. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is imbedded within the fuel body.

1 17. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is adhered to the bottom surface of the
2 fuel body.

- 1 18. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is corrugated.
- 1 19. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is dome-shaped.
- 1 20. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel body has multiple wicks.
- 1 21. (original) The candle of claim 20, wherein each flame-resistant sheet in proximity to each
2 wick extends at least one inch from the longitudinal axis of each wick.
- 1 22. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is crimped.
- 1 23. (canceled)
- 1 24. (currently amended) A fire hazard reducing improvement to a freestanding candle which
2 is unsupported in a container, the candle having a width of at least two inches and a wick
3 supported by a fuel body, the wick, in an operable position of the candle, extending along a
4 longitudinal axis through the fuel body, from near a lower end surface of the fuel body to a
5 top surface of the fuel body from which the wick extends, wherein the improvement
6 comprises:
7 a flame-resistant sheet bonded to the lower surface of the fuel body and extending
8 outwardly from said longitudinal axis at least substantially one inch from the
9 longitudinal axis of the wick for preventing molten fuel body from flowing through
10 the bottom of the candle.
- 1 25. (new) A method for more safely burning a freestanding candle fuel body that is not
2 supported in a surrounding container, the method comprising:

- 3 (a) bonding a flame-resistant sheet to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity
4 to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from
5 the longitudinal axis of the wick; and
6 (b) burning the fuel body on a support surface which does not have a container
7 surrounding the fuel body.

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